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# THE WANDERER

**103RD EDITION** 20 DEC 2019 #SYDNEYDERBY #WSWvWUN

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WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS FC

VS

BRISBANE ROAR FC

WED 1 JAN

KICK-OFF 7:30PM

BANKWEST STADIUM

# THIS MATCH

## FEATURES

**BRAVEHEART** 8
Have the Wanderers ever had a player like Daniel Georgievski?

**STAAB SHINING** 14
Sam Staab is relishing her time at the Red & Black

**ALL EYES ON PELEKANOS** 20
Another one off the Wanderers' youth production line

**COMEBACK KID** 22
Life experiences have taught Jordan O'Doherty to overcome setbacks

## REGULAR COLUMNS

**THE LETTER** 5

**WARM UP** 6

**PLAYERS TO WATCH** 13
Brought to you by Turner and Freeman

**TODAY'S MATCH** 16

**JUNIOR WANDERER ZONE** 18

**TAKE FIVE** 25
Brought to you by Turner and Freeman

**IN THE COMMUNITY** 27

**CORPORATE NEWS** 29

**OUR PARTNERS** 31

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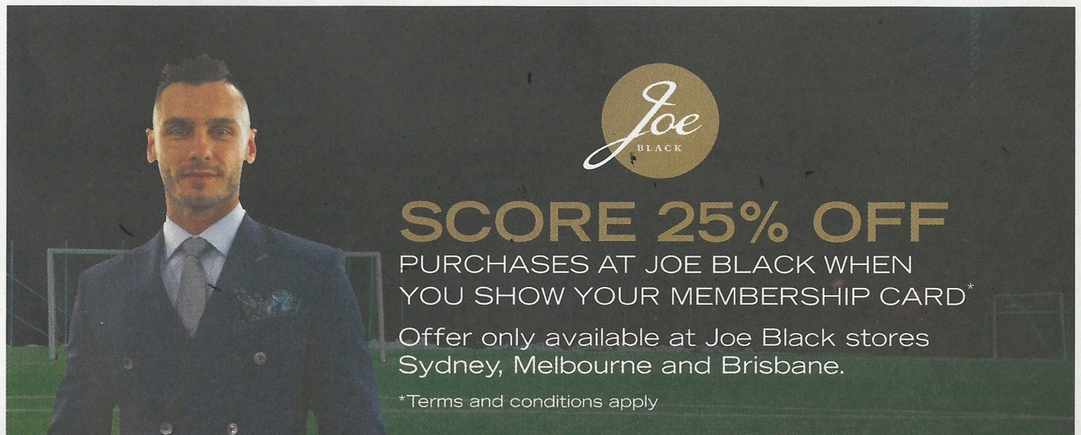
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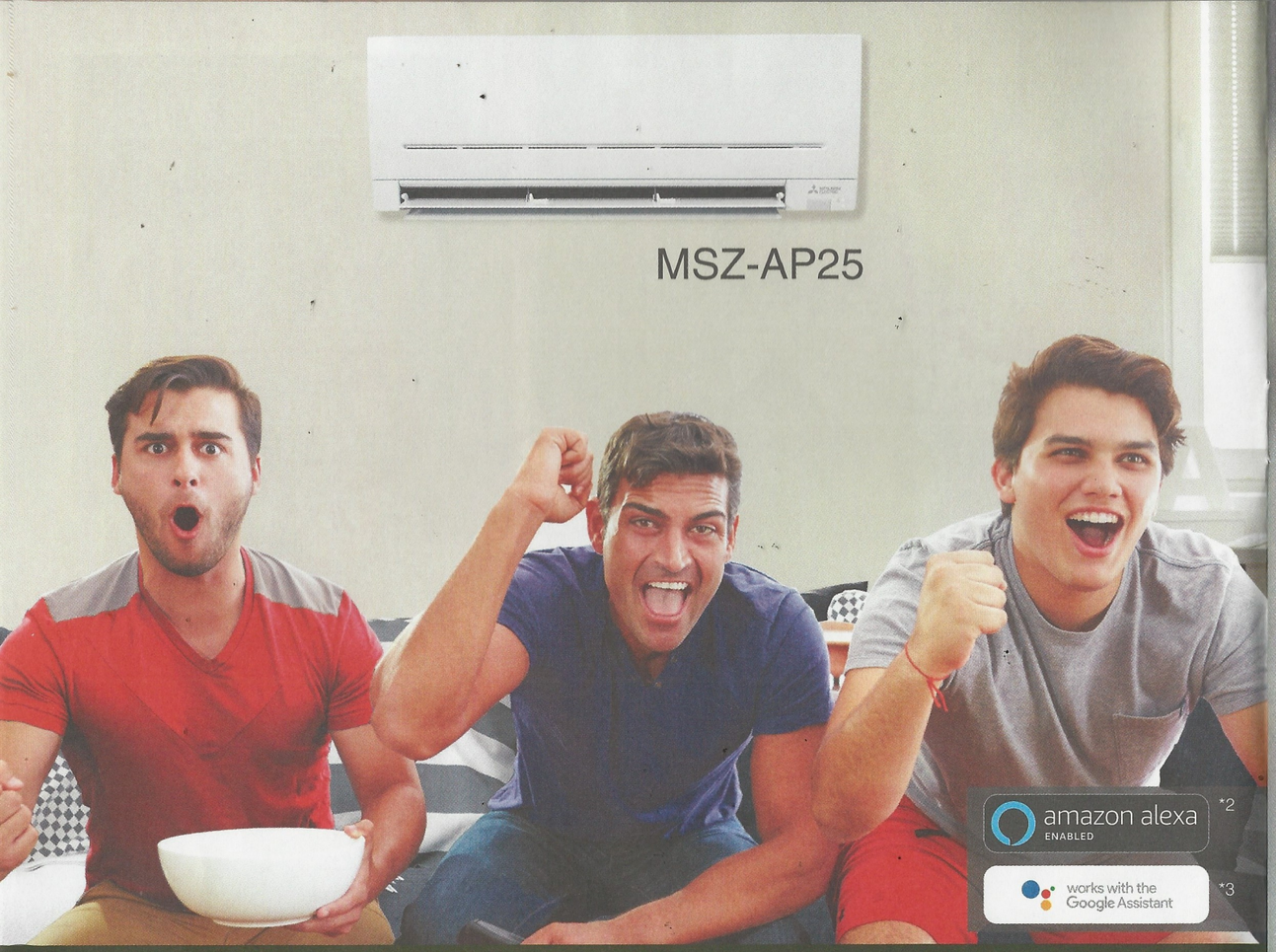


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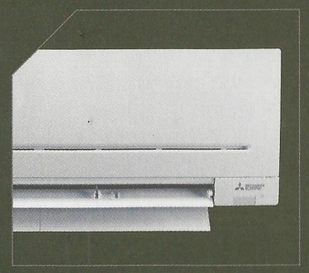

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# DEAN HEFFERNAN

**WESTERN SYDNEY WANDERERS WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE COACH**

GOOD EVENING AND welcome to tonight's double header at Bankwest Stadium. What a season it has been so far for our Westfield W-League team. After having one of the toughest pre-seasons, it's safe to say that the team's hard work is really paying off and I couldn't be prouder. Over the years, I've watched my fair share of Westfield W-League Sydney Derbies but tonight will be the first one that I have ever coached. It's a monumentous occasion for the club and with our recent form, I have all the faith that the girls will get the job done tonight. We have had the week off to prepare for the fixture and have done the hard yards both on and off the field. As a team, we went to The Children's Hospital at Westmead last week to put smiles on kids faces ahead of a tough Christmas period. It was great to see the impact we could have in bringing joy to their faces, even if it was only for a short time. It was a very fulfilling and rewarding experience that I am proud that we did together as a team. Tonight will be a big test for our team but already we have made some history. From the most consecutive wins in a season by the club as well as scoring our very first hat-trick, we have set the foundations this season for success and I know the team will do whatever it takes tonight. Come on you Wanderers!

PRIDE. POWER. WEST.

# MATCH PREVIEW

IT WILL HOPEFULLY be history in the making in more ways than one when the Wanderers host the second Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League double header of the season at Bankwest Stadium tonight.

Head coach Dean Heffernan's impressive women's side will kick off what should be a spectacular night of football when they take on Sydney FC in the first Sydney Derby of the season and the first women's Derby clash at Bankwest Stadium.

After three weeks on the road, the men return home to Wanderland to face the competition new boys on the block, Western United, in the later game

Both games promise to be exciting, open affairs that will thrill the bumper crowd.

Head coach Markus Babbel's Hyundai A-League side have been playing some quality football in recent weeks but, unfortunately, Lady Luck has not looked too kindly on the Red & Black.

Despite dominating games, they have been brought undone by a few tough decisions that haven't gone their way. Yet, they continue to show their fighting qualities and resolve.

The key for the Wanderers could be German import Nicolai Muller, who is really starting to find his feet now.

Muller is getting fitter and stronger with each game and has adapted to the different conditions in Australia, especially the harder surface and the speed and physical nature of the A-League.

The Wanderers will be given a tough examination by the Victorians, who have surprised with their performances this season.

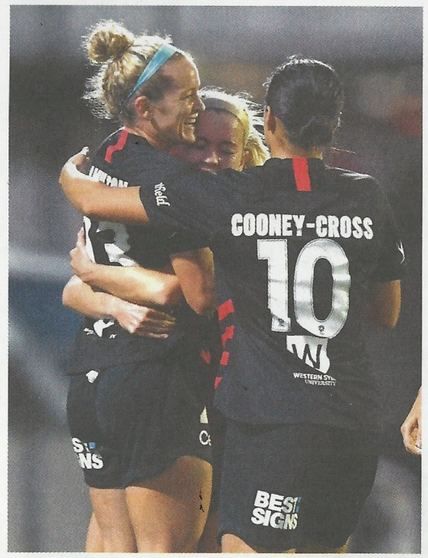
While there will be keen interest in this game, the women's Sydney Derby is certain to light up the stadium with atmosphere and excitement.

With the likes of Lynn Williams, Kristen Hamilton, Ella Mastrantonio, Alex Huynh, Abby Smith, Amy Harrison and Sam Staab in top form, the Wanderers will go into the game full of confidence having won three and drawn once in their opening four games of the season.

Indeed, every girl in the squad is pulling their weight as the competition leading Wanderers have shown they will be a force with which to be reckoned this season.

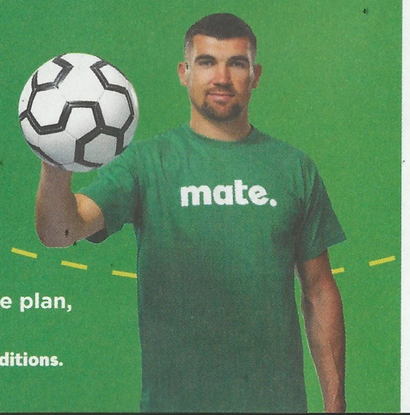
They will be fresh after having a bye following the 1-1 draw away to Melbourne Victory.

Having already created history with their start to the season, the Wander Women will be looking to add to that with a win against a Sydney FC side that has been in red hot form. W




*(Top to bottom) Nicolai Muller celebrates his first goal for the Red & Black, Wander Women celebrate their win against Brisbane Roar*

bundle and save with mate.

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# FIELD REPORTER

CATHERINE CANNULI
@CANNULI_13

THERE'S NO OTHER day like Derby Day.

I was one of the first dates on the calendar I used to circle as a player and there's no doubt the girls have been looking forward to this night since the fixture came out.

We have had a very solid start season so far and that's of massive credit to my fellow coaching staff as well as our terrific team.

The team have really prided themselves on hard-work and resilience this season, and there's a real sense that the tide is turning.

History is being made each round we play and it's such a special feeling to be part of especially after so many seasons of hardship and frustration.

This season we have already won more games than we have ever have in a single season, plus Kristen Hamilton has scored the club's first hat-trick.

A lot has been said about the internationals that have joined our squad this season but it's also important to highlight the impact some of our local girls have had not only on the Wanderers but also the Westfield W-League competition as a whole.

From our young guns in Kyra Cooney-Cross and Courtney Nevin, to some of our more experienced players like Amy Harrison, Ella Mastrantonio, Alex Huynh and captain Erica Halloway, we have the perfect balance to make history this season.

It's been a very long time since we have won a Sydney Derby in the Westfield W-League but if not now, then when?

I encourage you to get behind our women's team as they take to the field before our men's team and support them as they fight for the bragging rights.

Also from everyone here at the Wanderers, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you back at Wanderland when the Hyundai A-League team take on Brisbane Roar on New Year's Day. W

# ON THIS DAY

ON THIS DAY in 2018, the Wanderers took on Brisbane Roar at Dolphin Stadium in Round 8 of the Westfield W-League. Though it wasn't the Red & Black's night, Georgia Yeoman-Dale got on the scoresheet after her return from injury. W

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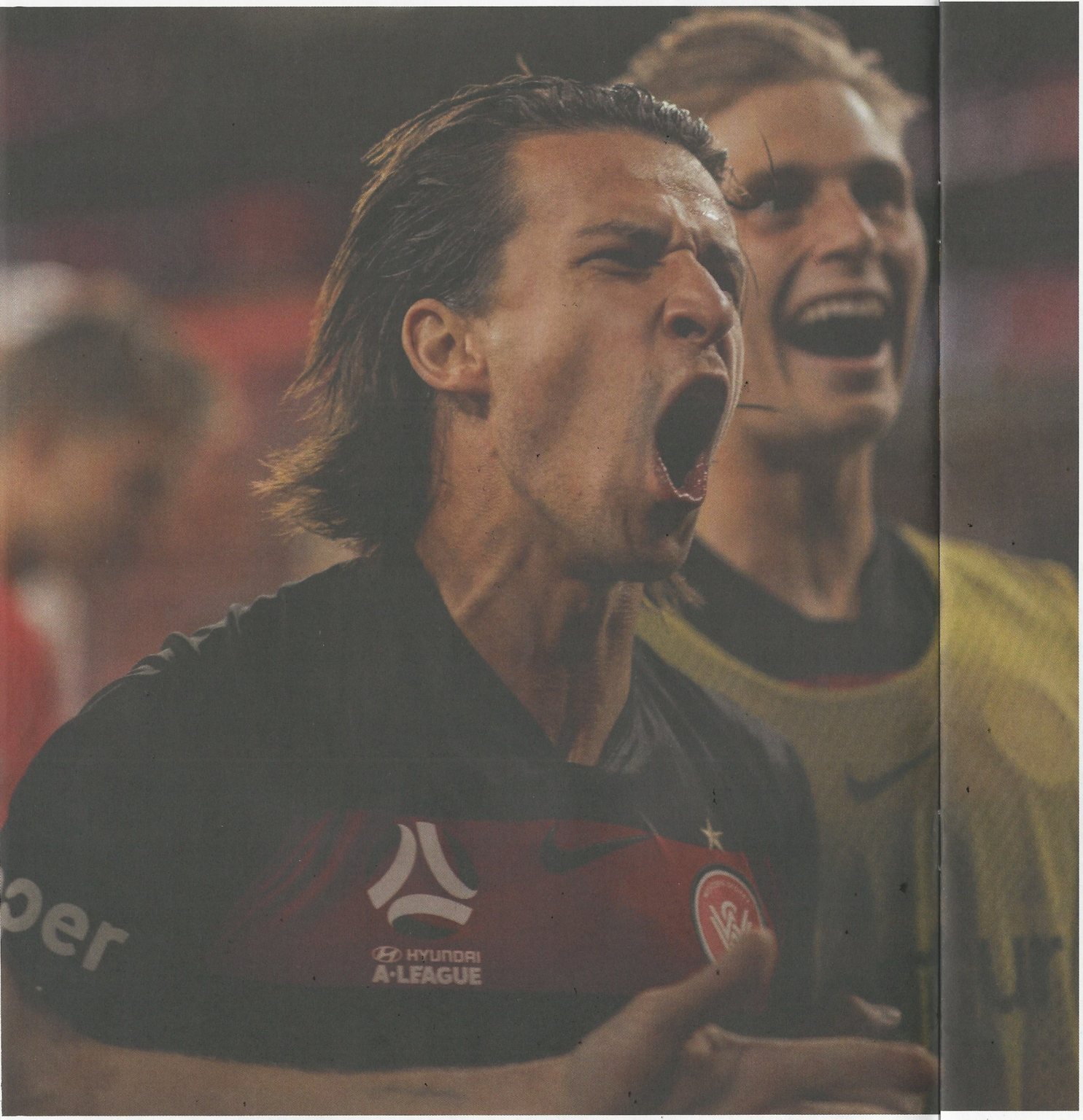


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# BRAVEHEART

## HAVE THE WANDERERS EVER HAD A PLAYER LIKE DANIEL GEORGIEVSKI?

RAY GATT
@GATTY54

HE HAS BEEN at the Wanderers for just six months, but Daniel Georgievski has fitted in so well with the culture and vibe that he already feels like he's part of the Red & Black furniture.

Georgievski is not only a talented footballer, but he is one of those charismatic people who inject professionalism, enthusiasm and fun into any environment he is in.

From the moment he's on the pitch with his fellow teammates or in the club offices joking around with the staff.

Building and shaping an environment is always something he has been conscious of doing during his impressive career as a professional player both overseas and in the domestic competition.

"Early in my career (overseas) there was a lot of negativity around my football, where I was playing and just as a whole," said Georgievski.

"I chose to be happy, but it could be hard when the environment (overseas) is not a happy place.

"Thankfully, I am in a happy place (at the Wanderers) so my personality shows itself.

"The boys are the same so it has helped me to be myself a bit.

"The personalities of everyone has come together, we laugh and have fun.

"No-one holds back and that is the perfect environment for me.".

# "I just thought the club would want me to just be me."

Interestingly, Georgievski, who has been a key component in the Wanderers best start to a seasons said he looked at toning things down when he first arrived back in Western Sydney.

"When I got here, I wanted to be serious, as funny as it sounds," said Georgievski.

"I'm 31 and I thought it was time, but when I got here it took me maybe 20 minutes to realise it's not going to happen!

"You know, I just thought the club would want me to just be me."

Importantly for the Macedonian international, who was born and raised in Sydney's west, his return to where it all began for him has been a huge help.

Having come to the club via stints at Melbourne Victory and Newcastle Jets, Georgievski was quite to reconnect with his Western Sydney roots.

The defender spent a lot of his childhood in Woodcroft, which is a stone's throw from the club's brand new training complex in Blacktown.

Which explains Georgievski's approach at the club.

Wearing his heart on his sleeve every match and every training session, quickly becoming a fan favourite.

"I used to come back and forth for a couple of weeks at a time when I was playing overseas, but it wasn't the same," Georgievski added.

"It just feels like home again, though there is a lot more traffic now than what I remember.

*(Previous page) Georgievski celebrates with teammates.*
*(Left) Georgievski with the ball.*
*(Top) Georgievski all smiles at Wanderers training.*

"It's been good seeing people and family I want to see more frequently."

Football wise, Georgievski believes things are working out well and has been happy with his contribution to the Red & Black so far.

"It has been a smooth transition for me," noted Georgievski.

"When you come to a club you have to establish yourself. I think with here I found my feet very, very fast and it just made things easier.

"I am happy. As long as I can keep myself fit, I think a lot of my football will do the talking.

"As long as I give more assists I am happy personally, but really, it's all about the team and not me."

Team wise, Georgievski believes the Wanderers will only get better as the season progresses.

"We are gelling and more and more," explained Georgievski.

"There are some teams that will click straight away, some teams take a little bit more time. I think the foreigners mainly have realised Australia is a very tough league.

"Even when I came back to the Hyundai A-League, I found it harder than Europe to adjust.

"But as each training session goes past, we have that connection and understand the structure more and more."

If things continue progressing the way Georgievski predicts, then there's no doubt that the Wanderers will be true contenders come Finals Series next year.

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# PLAYER TO WATCH

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## SAM STAAB
#3 DEFENDER

**4** GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON

| | |
|---|---|
| 70.4% | 51.9% |
| DUEL SUCCESS RATE | |
| 86.6% | 81.7% |
| PASSING DISTRIBUTION SUCCESS RATE | |
| 22 | 17 |
| CLEARANCES | |
| 2 | 2 |
| BLOCKS | |

## ELLIE BRUSH
#7 DEFENDER

**5** GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON

## DANIEL GEORGIEVSKI
#5 DEFENDER

**9** GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON

| | |
|---|---|
| 21 | 21 |
| CLEARANCES | |
| 10 | 8 |
| INTERCEPTIONS | |
| 14 | 15 |
| TACKLES WON | |
| 8 | 4 |
| FOULS WON | |
| 72.9% | 77.3% |
| PASSING ACCURACY | |

## JOSH RISDON
#19 DEFENDER

**9** GAMES PLAYED THIS SEASON

# STAAB SHINING

## SAM STAAB IS RELISHING HER TIME AT THE RED & BLACK

SAM STAAB NEVER experienced football outside the United States until she joined the Wanderers.

While the American had heard various things about what to expect regarding the lifestyle and the nature of the league from a number of Australian players she knew, it was understandable that there was a little trepidation about coming to play in the Westfield W-League.

As it turns out, the gifted, young defender needn't have worried as shown by her quickness to take in the sights and sounds of the city and her cultured performances in the opening month or so of the competition.

Staab, 22, has adapted so well to the speed and physical nature of the league that one would have thought she is a veteran of the W-League.

Together with Alex Huynh, Staab has formed one of the best central defensive combinations in the competition and they are one of the reasons for the club's outstanding start to the season.

"I am enjoying it some much here, it's just awesome," said Staab.

"Sydney is a beautiful city and I have done a lot of exploring, like the Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge.

"I played at (Washington) Spirit with (Matildas) Amy (Harrison), Chloe (Logarzo) and KK (Elise Kellond-Knight) and they told me a lot about Sydney and Australia in general.

"Actually, it is pretty similar to home. I'm from Southern California and the lifestyle and climate are pretty similar. It is just the difference in some words in the language.

"Football wise it is pretty much what I expected.

"It has been really awesome, so professional. The coaches are amazing and the girls are awesome.

"It is everything I could have imagined."

Staab, who went to Clemson University and got her first taste of professional football with Washington Spirit in the recently completed NWSL season, is not surprised she has been able to have an almost instant impact with the Red & Black.

However, Staab does admit it took some getting used to the lighter balls used in the W-League.

"With the NWSL (in the US), everyone is so athletic, it is so fast," said Staab.

"It hasn't been too hard here.

"It has been a bit different in that the games here seem a bit slower and you work in a more methodical way.

"You have to break teams down with different passes and be more patient and play up higher to break teams down.

"Whereas in the NWSL, it's just like 'can we out-athlete these teams.'

"Maybe the only problem early on was the balls they use here which are a lot lighter to the ones used in the NWSL."

As for playing alongside Huynh, Staab has nothing but good words.

"Playing with Alex, it's really good. We get along really well off the field as well as on the field and that's really important," said Staab.

"We have a good combination going and we do our best to contribute to the success of the team." W

*(Left to right) Staab leading the way from the back, Staab looking on at her fellow teammates*

# TONIGHT'S MATCH

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SCORE

SCORE

## SQUAD

| S | B | # | NAME | POS. | SPONSOR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1 | ABBY **SMITH** | GK | VACCARO GROUP |
| ☐ | ☐ | 2 | ALIX **ROBERTS** | DF | MCDONALD'S |
| ☐ | ☐ | 3 | SAM **STAAB** | DF | EISS SUPER |
| ☐ | ☐ | 5 | COURTNEY **NEVIN** | DF | INTERMAIN |
| ☐ | ☐ | 6 | DENISE **O'SULLIVAN** | MF | MATE |
| ☐ | ☐ | 7 | AMY **HARRISON** | MF | PEPPER MONEY |
| ☐ | ☐ | 8 | ERICA **HALLOWAY** | FW | WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY |
| ☐ | ☐ | 9 | LYNN **WILLIAMS** | FW | INTERMAIN |
| ☐ | ☐ | 10 | KYRA **COONEY-CROSS** | MF | EISS SUPER |
| ☐ | ☐ | 11 | CORTNEE **VINE** | FW | BEST SIGNS |
| ☐ | ☐ | 15 | ALEX **HUYNH** | DF | CENTURIA |
| ☐ | ☐ | 16 | LIANA **DANASKOS** | MF | WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY |
| ☐ | ☐ | 17 | TIANA **JABER** | MF | MCDONALD'S |
| ☐ | ☐ | 19 | SUZI **PHONSONGKHAM** | MF | INTERMAIN |
| ☐ | ☐ | 20 | VESNA **MILIVOJEVIC** | MF | WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY |
| ☐ | ☐ | 21 | ELLA **MASTRANTONIO** | DF | EISS SUPER |
| ☐ | ☐ | 23 | KRISTEN **HAMILTON** | FW | CENTURIA |
| ☐ | ☐ | 30 | COURTNEY **NEWBON** | GK | CENTURIA |
| ☐ | ☐ | 40 | JADA **WHYMAN** | GK | TRINITAS GROUP |

| COACH | ASSISTANT COACHES |
|---|---|
| DEAN **HEFFERNAN** | MICHAEL **BEAUCHAMP** |
| | CATHERINE **CANNULI** |

**SUBSTITUTES**

| OFF | ON |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

## SQUAD

| # | NAME | POS. | S | B |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | AUBREY **BLEDSOE** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 | TERESA **POLIAS** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 | SHADEENE **EVANS** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 | ELIZABETH **RALSTON** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 | ALLY **GREEN** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 | CHLOE **LOGARZO** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7 | ELLIE **BRUSH** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 9 | CAITLIN **FOORD** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10 | REMY **SIEMSEN** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 11 | SOFIA **HUERTA** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 12 | NATALIE **TOBIN** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 13 | VERONICA **LATSKO** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 14 | ALANNA **KENNEDY** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 15 | MACKENZIE **HAWKESBY** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 16 | JULIA **VIGNES** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 17 | ANGELIQUE **HRISTODOULOU** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 18 | TAYLOR **RAY** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 19 | AMY **SAYER** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 20 | PRINCESS **IBINI** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 30 | TRUDY **BURKE** | GK | ☐ | ☐ |

| COACH | ASSISTANT COACHES |
|---|---|
| ANTE **JURIC** | THOMAS **WHITESIDE** |
| | ALICE **KRIESLER** |

**SUBSTITUTES**

| OFF | ON |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

Westfield W-LEAGUE

## LADDER

CORRECT AS OF ROUND 5

| # | CLUB | P | W | D | L | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | MELBOURNE CITY FC | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| 2 | SYDNEY FC | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 12 |
| 3 | WANDERERS FC | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 |
| 4 | CANBERRA UNITED | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | BRISBANE ROAR FC | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 7 | NEWCASTLE JETS | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | MELBOURNE VICTORY | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | PERTH GLORY | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| 10 | ADELAIDE UNITED | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |

P PLAYED W WINS D DRAW L LOSS PTS POINTS

## ROUND 6 MATCHES

VS — SCORE

VS — SCORE

VS — SCORE

BYE

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

## LADDER

CORRECT AS OF ROUND 10

| # | CLUB | P | W | D | L | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SYDNEY FC | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 24 |
| 2 | MELBOURNE CITY FC | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 19 |
| 3 | WESTERN UNITED FC | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 16 |
| 4 | ADELAIDE UNITED | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 15 |
| 5 | PERTH GLORY | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 12 |
| 6 | WELLINGTON PHOENIX | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 11 |
| 7 | WANDERERS FC | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 10 |
| 8 | MELBOURNE VICTORY | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| 9 | BRISBANE ROAR FC | 9 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 10 | NEWCASTLE JETS | 8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 11 | CENTRAL COAST MARINERS | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 |

## ROUND 11 MATCHES

VS — SCORE

VS — SCORE

VS — SCORE

VS — SCORE

BYE

SCORE

SCORE

## SQUAD

| S | B | # | NAME | POS. | SPONSOR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | 1 | DANIEL **LOPAR** | GK | MCDONALD'S |
| ☐ | ☐ | 4 | DYLAN **McGOWAN** | DF | ACCESS FIRE |
| ☐ | ☐ | 5 | DANIEL **GEORGIEVSKI** | DF | VACCARO GROUP |
| ☐ | ☐ | 6 | MATTHEW **JURMAN** | DF | MATE |
| ☐ | ☐ | 7 | MITCHELL **DUKE** | DF | PEPPER MONEY |
| ☐ | ☐ | 8 | JORDAN **O'DOHERTY** | MF | JD SPORTS |
| ☐ | ☐ | 9 | NICOLAI **MÜLLER** | FW | STULZ |
| ☐ | ☐ | 10 | RADOSLAW **MAJEWSKI** | MF | |
| ☐ | ☐ | 11 | BRUCE **KAMAU** | FW | CASTLE HILL HYUNDAI |
| ☐ | ☐ | 13 | TASS **MOURDOUKOUTAS** | DF | TRINITAS GROUP |
| ☐ | ☐ | 14 | ALEX **MEIER** | FW | TURNER FREEMAN LAWYERS |
| ☐ | ☐ | 16 | MATHIEU **CORDIER** | DF | BELLROCK BROKING |
| ☐ | ☐ | 17 | KEANU **BACCUS** | MF | BEST SIGNS |
| ☐ | ☐ | 19 | PIRMIN **SCHWEGLER** | MF | CENTURIA |
| ☐ | ☐ | 20 | VEDRAN **JANJETOVIC** | GK | JOE BLACK |
| ☐ | ☐ | 21 | TAREK **ELRICH** | DF | CLUB MARCONI |
| ☐ | ☐ | 22 | NICHOLAS **SULLIVAN** | MF | A.S.S. FENCING |
| ☐ | ☐ | 23 | KOSTA **GROZOS** | MF | GPP EXCAVATIONS |
| ☐ | ☐ | 27 | KWAME **YEBOAH** | FW | REES ELECTRICAL |
| ☐ | ☐ | 28 | FABIAN **MONGE** | MF | CHOICE PHARMACY |
| ☐ | ☐ | 29 | DANIEL **WILMERING** | MF | WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY |
| ☐ | ☐ | 31 | NOAH **PAGDEN** | DF | BELLROCK BROKING |
| ☐ | ☐ | 33 | TATE **RUSSELL** | DF | INDUSTRIAL HARVEST |
| ☐ | ☐ | 34 | PATRICK **ZIEGLER** | DF | MULTIQUIP |
| ☐ | ☐ | 35 | MOHAMED **ADAM** | FW | LANDSCAPE SOLUTIONS |
| ☐ | ☐ | 40 | NICHOLAS **SUMAN** | GK | HERTZ |

| COACH | ASSISTANT COACHES |
|---|---|
| MARCUS **BABBEL** | JEAN-PAUL **DE MARIGNY** |
| | LABINOT **HALITI** |
| | DAVIDE **DEL GIOVINE** |

**SUBSTITUTES**

| OFF | ON |
|---|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

## SQUAD

| # | NAME | POS. | S | B |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | FILIP **KURTO** | GK | ☐ | ☐ |
| 2 | ADAM **CALVER** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 3 | BRENDAN **HAMILL** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 4 | ANDREW **DURANTE** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 5 | DYLAN **PIERIAS** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 6 | CONNOR **CHAPMAN** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 7 | VALENTINO **YUEL** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 8 | PANAGIOTIS **KONE** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 9 | APOSTOLOS **STAMATELOPOULOS** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 10 | SCOTT **MCDONALD** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 11 | CONNOR **PAIN** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 12 | DARIO **JERTEC** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 13 | IVAN **VUJICA** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 14 | MAX **BURGESS** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 15 | JONATHAN **ASPROPOTAMITIS** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 17 | JOSHUA **CAVALLO** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 18 | BESART **BERISHA** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 19 | JOSH **RISDON** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 20 | JAMES **DELIANOV** | GK | ☐ | ☐ |
| 21 | SEBASTIAN **PASQUALI** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 22 | ERSAN **GÜLÜM** | DF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 23 | ALESSANDRO **DIAMANTI** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 24 | THIEL **IRADUKUNDA** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 25 | LUKE **DUZEL** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 26 | KWABENA **APPIAH-KUBI** | FW | ☐ | ☐ |
| 27 | JERRY **SKOTADIS** | MF | ☐ | ☐ |
| 30 | RYAN **SCOTT** | GK | ☐ | ☐ |

| COACH | ASSISTANT COACHES |
|---|---|
| MARK **RUDAN** | JOHN **ANASTASIADAS** |
| | JOHN **HUTCHINSON** |
| | FRANK **JURIC** |

**SUBSTITUTES**

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## JUNIOR WANDERER OF THE MATCH

You could be featured as our Junior Wanderer of the Match at each of our home games this season! Be featured in the match day magazine plus get your photo shown on the big screen!

### WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!

Send your answer to competitions@wswanderersfc.com.au. The most passionate answer wins!

# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the five differences below?

*SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: 1. The Westfield W-League logo is missing from Courtney Nevin's number; 2. The fan is missing from the background; 3. One of the line markings is missing; 4. The red stripe on Kristen Hamilton's jersey is missing; 5. One of the hoops is missing from Denise O'Sullivan's jersey. JUNIOR QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Kristen Hamilton, 2. Amy Harrison, 3. Jonathan Aspropotamitis, Brendan Hamill, Josh Risdon, Kwabena Appiah-Kubi 4. Twice*


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# THE CORNER POST

There's no better way to celebrate Christmas than being together with your Red & Black family at Wanderland.

Tonight we have our second double header of the season with our Wander Women playing in the Sydney Derby before the boys take on Western United.

Pride will certainly be on the line in the Derby with our W-League team entering into the match in their best ever form.

Plus there's some added heat with our girl Amy Harrison making the switch from Sky Blue to Red & Black this season.

It's been so cool to see our W-League team score so many goals, control the midfield and defend so well!

We'd love you to get behind them when they take to the field before our Hyundai A-League match tonight.

Also if you see us around with Santa Claus, make sure you stop us for a photo and spread the Christmas cheer!

## JUNIOR QUIZ

1. Name the Wanderer who scored the club's first ever hat-trick in the Westfield W-League.
2. Which Wanderer made the switch from Sky Blue to Red & Black this season?
3. Name all the former Wanderers in Western United's squad this season.
4. How many times have the Wanderers played Western United after today's match?

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# ALL EYES ON PELEKANOS

## ANOTHER ONE OFF THE WANDERERS' YOUTH PRODUCTION LINE

THE WANDERERS ARE becoming highly renowned for the quality of the production line of young players coming through their ranks. .

It was all there for all to see earlier in the season when six players from the Wanderers Academy made it on the field at the same time during the Hyundai A-League opening round 2-1 win over Central Coast Mariners at Bankwest Stadium.

The likes of Academy graduates Daniel Wilmering, who has started in the Wanderers past five games, Kosta Grozos, Tass Mourdoukoutas, Mo Adam, Nick Sullivan and Keanu Baccus have all had a taste of first team football so far this season in a huge show of faith in the system.

That, however, is just a small taste of what is to come in the future as the club ramps up its junior and Academy programs.

With the Foxtel Y-League kicking off recently, the Red & Black's players of the future are certain to come to the fore.

And one of that young brigade, Dean Pelekanos, is determined to make his own mark this season.

A member of the Foxtel Y-League squad, Pelekanos, a centre-back, had a bright start to the season after ensuring a clean sheet in his debut.

"I was pretty happy with my effort," said Pelekanos.

"I have been putting in a lot of work to get where I am now and I am really enjoying my time at the Wanderers.

"We have a new system this season and we have adapted really well. We are all excited to see what the season will bring."

Pelekanos said he worked extremely hard during the pre-season and received good feedback from his coaches, including head coach Arthur Diles.

"They have been supportive ... they tell me to keep my head down and keep training hard and that's what I have been doing," explained Pelekanos.

"You have to be physically and mentally tough."

Pelekanos joined the Wanderers at the beginning of last year having signed from Blacktown City where he played from the under 12s to the under 17s.

The centreback said he has a clear vision of his aims and goals in the next few years.

"Firstly, I just want to help the Foxtel Y-League team as much as I can,"' said Pelekanos.

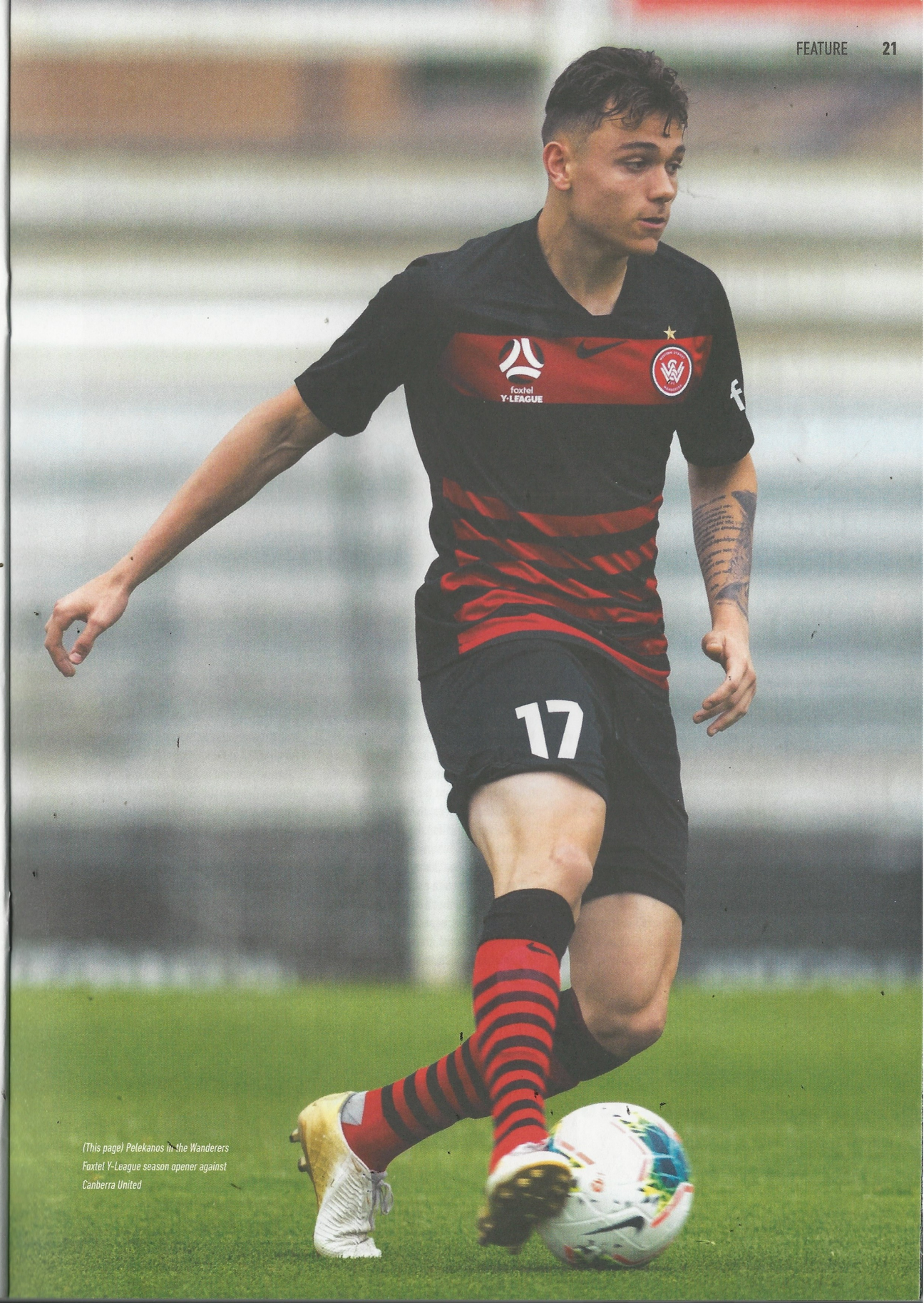
"We have a great bunch of players.

"Then I want to be a firm started in the Wanderers' National Premier League side.

"I'd also love to have some involvement with the Hyundai A-League side, maybe get on the bench for a game this season and see where I can go from there."

"Hopefully, I can also figure somewhere along the line with some of the Australian representative teams."






*(This page) Pelekanos in the Wanderers Foxtel Y-League season opener against Canberra United*

# COMEBACK KID

## LIFE EXPERIENCES HAVE TAUGHT JORDAN O'DOHERTY TO OVERCOME SETBACKS

IN THE SOMETIMES unforgiving world of professional football, Jordan O'Doherty has learned much about survival and mental toughness.

For someone just three years out of his teens, the Western Sydney Wanderers midfielder has already had his fair share of tough experiences that would likely have broken someone of lesser strength and character.

O'Doherty's first real challenge came as a 16-year-old when he shifted to Melbourne to try and forge a professional career, having been loaned by the Adelaide Raiders to NPL club Melbourne Knights in 2014.

During the six month spell in Melbourne, O'Doherty also spent time with the Melbourne Victory youth team.

"Did I handle it? Nah, I was a bit too young I reckon," said O'Doherty frankly.

"It was quite hard being away from home because we are quite a close knit family.

"Mum and Dad made so many sacrifices for me in life and, especially football wise and I will be forever grateful to them.

"I am also very close to my two younger brothers and I stay in touch with them every day."

Having returned to Adelaide to link with the Adelaide United NPL side, O'Doherty eventually got his breakthrough in the A-League, signing on with the Reds' senior side, where he played 28 games (one goal) before joining the Wanderers on a three year deal in 2018.

O'Doherty became a regular starter with the Red & Black during the 2018/19 season and was making some real

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*O'Doherty back training with the Hyundai A-League team.*

headway until disaster struck in a game against Perth Glory at Spotless Stadium on 24 February.

O'Doherty ruptured his ACL in a tackle inside the box and required a knee reconstruction.

The youngster missed the last seven games of the season and the first 10 games this season before being given the all clear to return to playing after nine months of rehabilitation.

Having learned from the previous experiences, the 22-year-old said he remained positive throughout his time out of the game.

"I'd say this has been the hardest period of my life," admitted O'Doherty.

"The truth is, I feel I coped really well mentally with the injury.

"Yeah, there have been a lot of hard stages and frustrating stages but I have stayed really positive. I guessed it helped that I had the security of a contract."

The time out at least allowed O'Doherty to work on his skills on FIFA, though he says he is no match for his younger brother, Jamie, who plays it for a bit of a living.

"Jamie is involved in the E-League and is very good. I am like a two rating compared to his 10, but when it comes to playing the lads here then I am a 10," laughed O'Doherty.

Now ready to make his long awaited comeback after 10 months on the sidelines recovering from his knee reconstruction, O'Doherty can't wait to put on the Red & Black jersey on again and make up for lost time.

"It's really just a matter of getting a bit of match practice with the youth team and getting the confidence back," explained O'Doherty.

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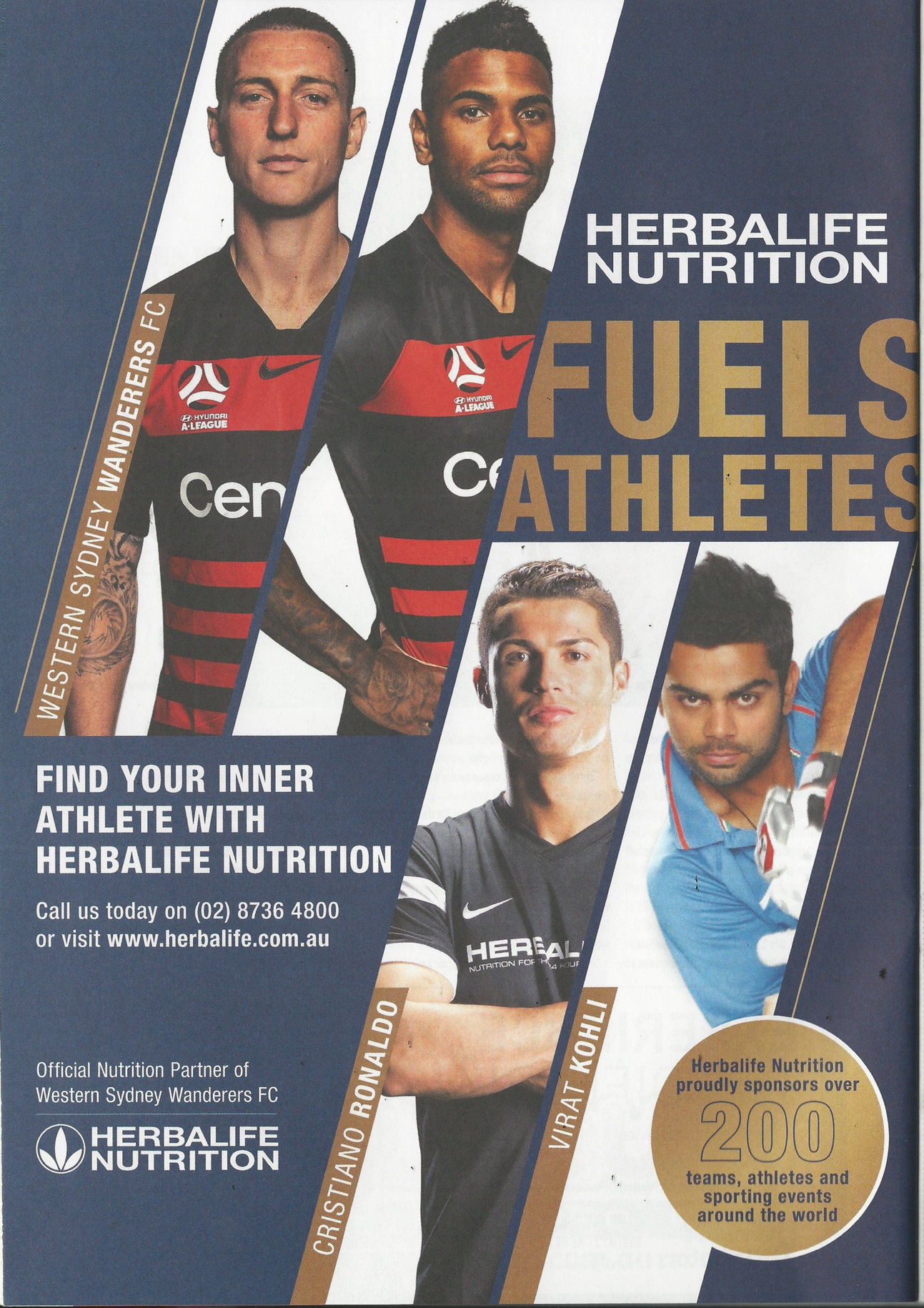





# TAKE FIVE

FOLLOW ALEX ON TWITTER
@ALEXANDRA_HUYNH

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LAWYERS

## THERE'S NO PLACE ALEXANDRA HUYNH WOULD RATHER BE.

THIS SEASON IS my third stint at the club and I can't stay away.

I was born in Western Sydney and it would have been rude of me to not play for the club.

Honestly, I don't think I'd play for another club.

I was literally here from day one and sometimes, we didn't even have changerooms.

So it is a massive difference to come back here and see what they have done and to be part of an exciting new era at the club.

We have had a great start to the season so far and when you are winning it's so easy to think that everything is going well,but there is stuff that I have to work on.

I am happy with my form but there are definitely things I can improve on.

There have been a few seasons where everyone expected us to lose and it was kinda hard to go into a game knowing you were always the underdog.

It is great that there has been such a great change and shift in mentality here, plus the club is making a huge effort to improve things.

I met my defensive partner Sam (Staab) maybe like a week before the season started.

As a centre-back it is so crucial to get to know each other.

The way we play is very different but we complement each other.

We have very different styles but at the same time there's that trust and respect, so it makes it so easy to play alongside her.

She is a such a good person, so easy to talk to and get along with.

**GET READY FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON WITH OUR WINTER WANDERLAND PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY. SEARCH WSWANDERERSFC TO LISTEN.**

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SLEIGH RIDE **THE RONETTES**
8 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS **DESTINY'S CHILD**
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS **COLDPLAY**
LAST CHRISTMAS **WHAM!**
HAVE YOURSELF A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS **SAM SMITH**
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# HOLIDAY CLINICS KICK OFF SOON

LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN confirmed for the Wanderers January School Holiday clinics!

The Red & Black will be in Sydney Olympic Park, Penrith, Hills, Blacktown and Parramatta this January running both beginner and advanced clinics.

Powered by Soccer Kickstart, the sessions follow through on proven development systems that follow the FFA Curriculum.

Participants are guaranteed to have a great time developing their football skills in a dynamic high-quality session with fully qualified and highly experienced coaches.

First-timers will even receive a Western Sydney Clinic jersey.

The beginner and intermediate clinics are aimed towards players who are starting to enhance their football skills in a dynamic high-quality session with the fully qualified and highly experienced coaches.

Sessions are heavily focused on technique, game understanding and improving confidence as well as providing a great experience.

The advanced clinic sessions have the important pre-requisites of participants having a strong desire to improve, be intensely coached and having had previous high-level playing experience.

At the end of this clinic, the goal is to have participants comfortably perform all four technical components of football – passing, shooting, controlling the ball and dribbling.

In this program, players will go through the most diverse game scenarios further enhancing their decision-making ability and execution of the above skills.

Holiday Clinic sessions are selling fast so make sure you book in your child's place today.

**TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT WSWCOMMUNITY.COM.AU**

# HELPING OUT

THIS WEEK OUR Centuria Wandercrew members of the week are our Flag Bearers!

This group of kids help out at all our Westfield W-League and Hyundai A-League home matches for the season!

These volunteers are part of the Centuria Wandercrew workforce and roles range from helping with our activations to taking care of the hundreds of Miniroos that take to the field every week at half-time.

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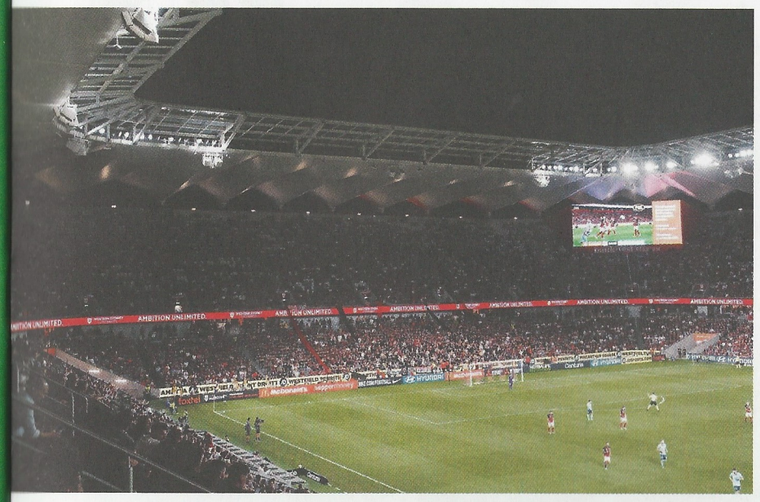

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A combination of the finest hospitality and the best atmosphere in Australian sport makes The Wanderers Experience the ultimate corporate sporting scene.

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A relaxed atmosphere with live music pre-match and half-time, tickets in the Ambassador's Lounge include a 3.5 unlimited beverage package including beer, wine and soft drinks served from your own private bar plus access to premium canapés and a live food station.

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A VIP experience at an affordable price point.

Outdoor boxes are the perfect way for coporates and supporters alike to enjoy the Wanderland experience up close to the action with flexible seating sizes of 6,8 or 10 guests.

The boxes include a 3.5 hour unlimited beverage package as well as a grazing canapé menu throughout the match.

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